



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

October 20, 2000

H.R. 3236

An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Utah, to use Weber Basin Project facilities for the impounding, storage, and carriage of nonproject water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes

As cleared by the Congress on October 13, 2000

H.R. 3236 would allow the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District for impounding, storing, or carrying nonproject water using the facilities of the federally operated Weber Basin Project in Utah. The bill also would allow the Secretary to enter into contracts for using facilities at the Weber Basin Project to exchange water among project contractors. Under current law, the federal government may not use its facilities to move nonproject water for nonproject purposes.

H.R. 3236 would not require the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District to reimburse the federal government for the full cost of handling water that is not used for the Weber Basin Project's irrigation purposes. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, however, CBO expects that the Secretary of the Interior would only use the new authority to enter into contracts with the district that would fully cover the government's costs. Under H.R. 3236, the federal government would receive funds to cover these costs up front from the district, and would then transfer the nonproject water. CBO estimates that the costs of handling the nonproject water would be less than \$500,000 each year.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Rachel Applebaum. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.